

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 OMB-01 /063 W

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R 091046Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6583

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 0559

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES ON NEW CABINET MEMBERS

REF: BANGKOK 0487

SUHMARY. AS PROMISED IN REFTTEL, BELOW ARE BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF NINE NEW FACES IN KHUKRIT PRAMOT'S CABINET: END SUMMARY.

1. SAWAT KHAMPRAKOT, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL AGRARIA MP FROM NAKHON SAWAN, DEPUTY PARTY LEADER OF SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY, BORN OCTOBER 23, 1919, IN NAKHON SAWAN. HE IS MARRIED. IS A PRACTICING LAWYER, A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN (RICE FARMS, LUMBER AND CITRUS FRUITS), AND A POLITICIAN SINCE HIS EARLY TWENTIES. ELECTED LORD MAYOR OF NAKHON SAWAN SEVERAL TIMES. FIRST ELECTED MP IN 1946 AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONTESTED EVERY ELECTION SINCE. HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE FORMATION OF FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES,

INCLUDING THE DEMOCRAT PARTY AND THANOM PRAPHAT'S UNITED THAI PEOPLE'S PARTY (UTPP). IN THAT PARTY HE SERVED AS  
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WHIP FOR THE NORTHERN MEMBERS. HE WAS THE HINISTER OF

AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES IN THE SENI PRAMOT GOVERNMENT WHICH LASTED FOR ONLY TWO WEEKS IN THE EARLY 1975.

2. BUNSONG SOMCHAI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES, SOCIAL JUSTICE MP FROM PRACHINBURI. BORN SEPTEMBER 11, 1929, A WIDOWER WITH FOUR DAUGHTERS. GRADUATE OF EQUIVALENT OF 10TH GRADE IN U.S. NOW AN OWNER OF HOTEL AND A ROCKCRUSHING PLANT IN HIS NATIVE PRACHINBURI PROVINCE. HE ENTERED POLITICS IN 1947 AS A MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLYMAN. ALSO SERVED AS A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER, PROVINCIAL COUNCIL DEPUTY SPEAKER, AND LORD MAYOR OF PRACHINBURI TOWN. HE WAS ELECTED TO NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1969. HIS LAST POST WAS SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES, THAWIT KLINPRATHUM.

3. PRATHUAN ROMMAYANON, DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER, THAI NATION MP FROM BANGKOK. BORN FEBRUARY 8, 1927, IN BANGKOK. MARRIED WITH ONE DAUGHTER. HE STUDIED ENGINEERING AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY FOR THREE YEARS. WORKED AT THE ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT AND FOR THE BANGKOK MUNICIPALITY. RESIGNED TO RUN FOR THE 1975 ELECTIONS IN BANGKOK AND WAS ELECTED. HE HAS BEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ROYAL TURF CLUB IN BANGKOK FOR A LONG TIME AND IS VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE HORSE RACING CIRCLE. HE IS A SUPPORTER OF DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN. HE ACQUIRED HIS WEALTH IN THE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS.

4. PRATHUANG KHAMPRAKOP, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SOCIAL AGRARIAN MP FROM NAKHON SAWAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY BORN FEBRUARY 23, 1927, AND IS MARRIED. HIS WIFE IS A BANK MANAGER IN NAKHON SAWAN AND COMES FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY. HE OBTAINED A B.S. IN ENGINEERING FROM CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY, THEN SERVED IN THE ROYAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT UNTIL 1954 WHEN HE RESIGNED TO SET UP HIS OWN ENGINEERING FIRM. HE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO NATIONAL OFFICE AS MP IN 1969 UNDER THE UTPP BANNER. HE WAS THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE IN THE SHORT-LIVED SENI GOVERNMENT.

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MENT. HE IS THE NEPHEW OF THE NEW MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SAWAT KHAMPRAKOB. HE HAS HAD NO FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE AND SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH.

5. SAWAENG PHILBUNSARAWUT, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY.

SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY MEMBER. BORN APRIL 1, 1930, IN

NAKHON RATCHASIMA. FATHER CHINESE, MOTHER THAI.  
GRADUATED FROM EQUIVALENT OF AMERICAN 10TH GRADE. SELF-  
MADE MAN AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN. MADE HIS  
MONEY IN TRANSPORT, SUPPLYING THE AMERICAN BASES IN THE  
NORTHEAST DURING THE HEYDAY OF THE VIETNAM WAR. HE  
WAS A SUB-CONTRACTOR OF NEW DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAWIT KLINPRATHUM.  
HE WAS ELECTED AS AN MP IN 1969 UNDER THE UTPP BANNER. HE WAS  
UNSUCCESSFUL IN THE 1975 ELECTION. HIS ENGLISH IS  
PASSABLE. ALTHOUGH NOT AN MP, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIAL AGRARIAN PARTY, AND ONE  
OF THE PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS OF THE PARTY. HE  
IS ALSO THE SOCIAL AGRARIAN'S CHIEF ORGANIZER FOR THE  
NORTHEAST. THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT HE IS CLOSE TO  
GE. KRIT SIWARA, FORMER RTA COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

6. PRAPHATPHONG WETCHACHIWA, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER,  
THAI MP FROM CHANTHABURI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THAI  
PARTY. BORN JULY 1, 1933, MARRIED, WITH TWO SONS AND  
TWO DAUGHTERS. GRADUATED FROM EQUIVALENT OF U.S. HIGH  
SCHOOL THEN SPENT FIVE YEARS STUDYING AGRICULTURE SCIENCES

IN AUSTRALIA. HE HOLDS A DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE FROM  
THE BURNLEY HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE IN AUSTRALIA. HE TAUGHT  
IN AUSTRALIA FOR ONE YEAR BEFORE RETURNING TO THAILAND TO  
BE MANAGER OF THE ORCHARDS BELONGING TO THE LATE SURIYON  
RAIWA. HE WORKED FOR SURIYON FOR 10 YEARS BEFORE GOING  
OFF ON HIS OWN. HE IS THE OWNER OF FRUIT PLANTATIONS  
IN KHLUNG DISTRICT, CHANTHABURI. HE IS RELATED TO NITSAI  
AND WITTHAYA WETCHACHIWA OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY.

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ACTION EA-09

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R 091046Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6584

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU  
COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 0559

7. PANCHAKESONTHTNG, DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER, SOCIAL AGRARIAN MP FROM PHETCHABUN. BORN AUGUST 5, 1931, IN PHETCHABUN, MARRIED WITH TWO SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS. HIS WIFE'S NAME IS KOPAE. HE GRADUATED FROM THE EQUIVALENT OF THE AMERICAN 7TH GRADE. HE WAS ONCE A DEPUTY LEADER OF AN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE. HE IS A BUSINESSMAN WHO OWNS TOBACCO CURING BARNES IN HIS NATIVE PHETCHABUN. HE ADMITS HE HAS NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION. WAS ELECTED MP IN 1969 AS A MEMBER OF THE UTPP.

8. THANET IASAKUN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE, SOCIALIST NATIONALIST MP FROM NONG KHAI. BORN 43 YEARS AGO IN NONG KHAI. GRADUATED FROM EQUIVALENT OF US 4TH GRADE. SINO-THAI. SELF MADE MILLIONAIRE. HE OWNS THE EIA PENG CHIANG TRUCKING CO. WHICH MONOPOLIZED TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS BETWEEN THAILAND AND LAOS. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL OF AID/LAOS, HE WAS THE PRINCIPAL SUB-CONTRACTOR OF ETO AND THE MAJOR SUPPLIER OF RICE TO THE PUBLIC WAREHOUSE ORGANIZATION. HE HAD CONTRACTS WITH AID/LAOS FOR TRANSPORTATION BOTH IN THAILAND AND LAOS. WELL KNOWN IN NORTHEAST.

9. WATTANA ATSAWAHEM, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, SOCIAL  
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NATIONALIST MP FROM SAMUT PRAKAN. BORN SEPTEMBER 26, 1936, HE IS MARRIED TO MRS. CHANRAEM AND HAS THREE SONS. HE IS A VERY BIG BUSINESSMAN WHO IS REPUTED TO HAVE MADE MILLIONS THROUGH HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THANOM-PRAPHAT-NARONG CLIQUE. HE OWNED THE KIATNANTHAWAT CO., WHICH HAD THE MONOPOLY OF THE FUEL TRADE DURING THE LAST REGIME. HE IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF NARONG KITTHIKHACHON. HE ALSO HAS SOME INTERESTS IN THE FISHING TRADE AND OWNS THE BAN KAEW RUAN KHWAN RESTAURANT AND THE KOSI MASSAGE PARLOR. HE IS AUSINO-THAI.  
WHITEHOUSE

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